

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 AGR-20

DRC-01 (ISO) W

----- 119228

R 291230Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6057

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 11276

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, CG, US

SUBJECT: MOBUTU'S NEW ECONOMIC INITIATIVES

REF: STATE 249417; KINSHASA 11168

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED RELIABLE INFORMATION THAT GOZ IS AIMING BY DEC. 31 TO TAKE OVER FOREIGN-OWNED AGRICULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES SUBJECT TO DECISIONS ANNOUNCED BY MOBUTU ON NOVEMBER 30. SPEED UP MAY BE DUE TO GOZ DESIRE CLARIFY SITUATION AND END PRESENT UNCERTAINTY AND CONFUSION.

2. GIVEN ACCELERATED TIMETABLE AND FACT COMMISSAIRE D'ETAT FOR COMMERCE NAMWISI SITS IN ON RESTRICTED FINANCIAL COMMITTEE WHICH IS DAILY MAKING DECISIONS ON ZAIRIANIZATION, ON DEC. 29 I WENT OVER OUR POSITION ON NATIONALIZATION IN PARA 4 STATE 249417 AND TOOK SAME LINE AS I HAD WITH BISENGIMANA DEC. 22.

2. NAMWISI IMMEDIATELY ASSURED ME MAJOR US INTERESTS WERE NOT AFFECTED, SPECIFICALLY MENTIONING SMTFWU MIDIMA, AND
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PHARMACEUTICAL FIRMS. AFTER THANKING HIM FOR REASSURANCES,

I NOTED US OBLIGED DEFEND INTERESTS OF SMALLER FIRMS JUST AS VIGOROUSLY AS THE LARGE ONES AND I WAS TAKING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND HIM OF THIS FACT IN ORDER THAT UNINTENDED DIFFICULTIES MIGHT BE AVOIDED. NAMWISI ASKED ME TO FURNISH LIST OF ALL US COMPANIES WHICH MIGHT BE AFFECTED. THIS WILL BE DONE PROMPTLY INCLUDING THOSE IN LUBUMBASHI 452.

4. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO MOBIL AND TEXACO, IT NOW APPEARS THAT SOLE US CONSTRUCTION COMPANY WITH PERMANENT OFFICE IN ZAIRE, KALICAK INTERNATIONAL, MAY BE AFFECTED. KALICAK ATTENDED CONFUSED MEETI AEBZC. 28 AT DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS ALONG WITH OTHER CONSTRUCTORS AT WHICH IMPRESSION WAS CONVEYED THAT GOZ NOW OWNED THE COMPANIES AND THEIR ASSETS. KALICAK IS REMAINING CALM AND SAYS HE AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES PLAN TO CONTINUE BUSINESS AS USUAL.
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